

Game

Variant

The Coalfields

A hard-to-find game variant of 1830 reprinted by permission of the game designer.

by Alan R Moon
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This variant will open up the board quite a bit. While the new hexes are added to the south map edge, the north is also increased in value by making it easier to run into and through New York. This feature balances the value of all the corporations and puts the emphasis back on the player to run the corporation in the best possible manner. In addition, all the corporations, with the exception of the *Erie*, now begin in the east, and must make their way west together.

Changes to the Game

1) Add two more rows of hexes to the southern map

edge as shown on the next page. The Deep South hex on the mapboard becomes the new *C&O* base hex in hex K13.

2) Treat the old *C&O* base as a normal gray city hex.

3) The *Norfolk & Western* is added as the ninth railroad.

a) It is available at the beginning of the game.

b) Its base hex is Norfolk.

c) There are nine shares; a 20% President's Certificate and eight single share certificates.

d) The *N&W* has three tokens.

4) The Pennsylvania's base hex is changed to a different, permanent gray hex. All routes may be traced through this hex, the Pennsylvania base station does not prevent a route being traced through this hex. Any corporation may

begin or end their route by counting the Pennsylvania station as in the normal rules of play, but only the Pennsylvania itself can count the base station as an intermediary stop on a run. The station is considered to be anywhere within the hex, and this can change within a turn from player to player or from turn to turn as needed.

5) New Hexes and Tiles

a) Baltimore and Boston have the same, new green tile.

b) Baltimore and Boston have different, new brown tiles.

c) New York has a different brown tile.

d) Gray hex D24 is changed.

e) hex F20 is changed from a double small city hex to a single large city hex.

f) There is a special brown tile for hex G17. When the Brown tiles become available, the yellow tile in hex G17 (no matter which one was placed) can be promoted to this brown tile. All routes running through this hex must count it as one city, value \$20.

g) hex K3 is a new large single city hex.

h) hex K15 is changed to a river hex which costs the corporation that initially lays a tile \$40.

i) Hexes K11, L6 and L8 are mountain hexes. Each costs \$120.

j) Hex K9 is a mountain hex with a single large city. It costs \$120 to build tile 57.

k) The Chicago hex is changed. Routes may now run through this hex. It does count as city on the route.

l) Hex L10 is the coalfields. Each corporation which wishes to run into/through this hex must pay the \$140 blasting cost to build the route to the mines. It does count as a city on the route, and any route can only pass through it once per run.

m) Hex M13 is the new Deep South.

n) Hex L2 is the new Gulf hex. Routes may now run through this hex. It does count as a city on the route.

6) Train Changes

a) Add one more 4 Train.

b) Use the optional 6 train.

c) Add two 7 trains (4-6-6-4 Challengers). They Cost \$710. These become available after the first six train is bought.

d) Diesels now cost \$750 with a trade-in and \$900 without.

e) Trains that become obsolete are not removed until after the owning corporation's next

Operating Turn.

7) Tile Mix

a) Add two yellow 57 tiles.

b) Add one green 14 station tile.

c) Add one green 15 station tile.

d) Add one brown 63 station tile.

8) Increase the number of certificates each player can hold by one, regardless of the number of players in the game.

9) **Optional rule:** Add \$8000 to the bank. This will guarantee at least three more operating rounds in the game and will make the decisions of whether to buy a diesel or a 7 train more important.

Take a Ride

This variant can also be used with the 'Take A Ride on the Reading' variant published in the General, Volume 23, Number 6, to create 10 railroads, as follows. (Editor's note: Avalon Hill has granted permission to reprint this variant in the TGG and it will appear in the magazine later this year.)

1) The *Reading* station is located and treated per the rules in 'Take A Ride On The Reading'.

2) The Norfolk & Western now has only eight certificates: two 20% share certificates (one is the President's Certificate) and six 10% share certificates.

3) Add two 4 trains instead of one and two 6 trains instead of one.

4) Increase the number of certificates each player can hold by two instead of one.

5) Add a minimum of \$4000 to the bank. Up to \$12,000 can be added if players desire it.

6) All other rules in the first part of this article supersede those in 'Take A Ride On The Reading'.

Another Option

Another interesting variant would be to use both the *Reading* and *Norfolk & Western* and drop the *Erie* from the game.

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